

The Liquidation of Kolchak and His Followers

September 1919 – 1922



“... Чтобы до конца уничтожить Колчака, необходимо соблюдать строжайший революционный порядок, необходимо соблюдать свято законы и предписания советской власти и следить за их исполнением всеми.”

“... In order to complete the annihilation of Kolchak, it is necessary to observe the strictest revolutionary order, it is necessary to observe the sacred laws of the Soviet authority and that they be obeyed by all.”

Map 8

The Liquidation of Kolchak and his Followers // September 1919 – 1922

Colored Lithographic print, 64 x 101 cm. Compilers: A. N. de-Lazari and N. N. Lesevitskii

Artist: A. A. Baranov

Historical Background and Thematic Design

The eighth map in the series concentrates on the Red Army's pursuit and liquidation of Admiral Kolchak's forces, as well as Bolshevik consolidation of power in central Siberia and Soviet Central Asia.

Red and white are the dominant colors and give the appearance of having been applied in a thinly-coated wash. Red identifies areas under Soviet control, while white identifies Siberia east of the Yenisey River. Communist success, illustrated in the form of conflagration or fireball, spreads as far as Siberia's Irtysh River and into Russian Central Asia. By contrast, the defeated powers, Germany, Austria, Bulgaria, and Turkey, are colored gray, while the victorious nations are presented in drab green.

Extending across the middle of the map from the southwest sector to the southeast sector is a long line of red army soldiers following red spearheads along the trans-Siberian Railway from Omsk to Irkutsk. They are in pursuit of the remnants of the White counterrevolutionary army and their leader, Admiral Kolchak. Tens of thousands of soldiers, families, refugees, and stragglers, all poorly commanded, undersupplied, overwhelmed, harassed by Cossacks and partisans, and riddled with typhus, fled in complete distress more or less along the Trans-Siberian Railway.

Both above and below the Red Army's line of advance are eleven large red dots, some with spearheads. Identified as "partisan detachments," they represent partisan uprisings and attacks that followed in the wake of disintegrating White rule. Partisans acted alone or in concert with the Red Army, helping to establish Soviet rule in Siberia, either by assaulting White garrisons or capturing towns along the railway. By the end of 1919 much of the Siberian gubernias of Yeniseysk, Krasnoyarsk, and Irkutsk were in the hands of partisan groups.

In the wake of defeat, Admiral Kolchak fled east with thirty-six railroad cars of Tsarist treasure. His entourage was delayed and sidetracked by the Czechs, who turned Kolchak over to a socialist group known as the Political Center, which six days later was replaced the Irkutsk Military Revolutionary Committee. Kolchak was interrogated and then executed without trial. He was dumped in a hole in the ice in a tributary of the Angara River. Kolchak's "liquidation" is symbolized to the west of Irkutsk by the fallen Russian Imperial flag, pierced by a red arrow and accompanied by the lines and dates, which read "Kolchak's extradition to the Political Center 15 January 1920 // His execution 7 February 1920."

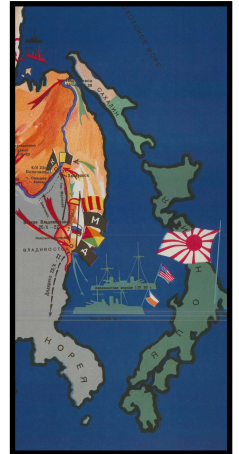


Figure 18

The fall of Kolchak enabled the Bolsheviks to move slowly from Lake Baikal to Vladivostok in the period of 1920-22. Hindering their progress was the rise of various local pseudo-governments and the Japanese Army. Over Blagoveshchensk flies a horizontal dual-color flag, black and yellow, as well as an approaching red spearhead with the text and date "Partisan army 5 February 1920." These presumably refer to the Red forces under Meier Trilisser, a Bolshevik and the leading figure of the Amur district underground, who established Soviet rule in Blagoveshchensk following the Japanese evacuation in February 1920.

Among those driven from power in Transbaikalia was Ataman Grigorii M. Semenov, whose remnants are symbolized by three black symbols of Cossacks in flight. One carries a black pennant with a white letter C (S). Together they are identified as “Semenov’s detachment,” which fought its way into Manchuria to follow their leader to refuge in Harbin. One of his followers, the sadistic Baron Ungern-Sternberg, had invaded Mongolia as a base for anti-Soviet operations. His is the black symbol of a Cossack on horseback, holding a triangular black flag with the Cyrillic letter Y (U). Nearby is a large black spot crossed out with a red X, which notes the location as “the liquidation of Ungern,” following his overthrow and execution in the summer of 1921.

The withdrawal of Allied occupation forces from Vladivostok led to its eventual occupation by the DVR’s People’s Revolutionary Army. Conservatives, regionalists, revolutionaries, Czechs, and Japanese vied for the city’s control. By the end of December 1921, however, Vladivostok’s Bolsheviks recognized the Far Eastern Republic and convened a coalition zemstvo government, represented by the flag that is quartered diagonally, with orange, green, yellow, and red quarters. A counterrevolutionary coup staged on May 26-27, 1921, by the commercial Merkulov brothers, with Japanese support, overthrew the ruling Zemstvo and proclaimed a “Provisional Priamur Government,” which is signaled by the black flag with the white Cyrillic letter M (M). **Figure 19**



Prompted by dissension among the local groups claiming authority, Mikhail Dieterichs, former head of Kolchak’s Siberian Army, convened the last zemskii sobor (a medieval estates general) on Russian soil in July 1922, with himself as ruler, and offered the throne to a Romanov grand duke. His brief tenure is marked by the black flag with the white Cyrillic letter Д (D), while that of the zemsky sobor may be symbolized by the vertical dual-color flag, comprising three red bands and two yellow bands.

As the last Japanese forces withdrew from Vladivostok in late October, Red units quickly converged on the city. **Figure 20** Their movements are indicated by red spearheads advancing from the northwest out of Manchuria. Among them was the People’s Revolutionary Army under the command of Ieronim P. Uborevich, and partisans under Shevchenko and others, who eliminated the remaining White defenders just above Nikolsk-Ussuriisk. The city was captured on 25 October 1922. The last non-Communist government fled to China, its path indicated by the dashed black line with the name and date “Dieterichs 25/October – 1922.”

In the East Sea, two battleships depart from the Golden Horn. One flies the American flag and is identified as the “American mission 1 April 1920,” the other flies the Czech flag and is identified as “Czechs 24 August 1920,” which indicate the dates evacuated by their last transports. Other occupying forces, including Canadi-



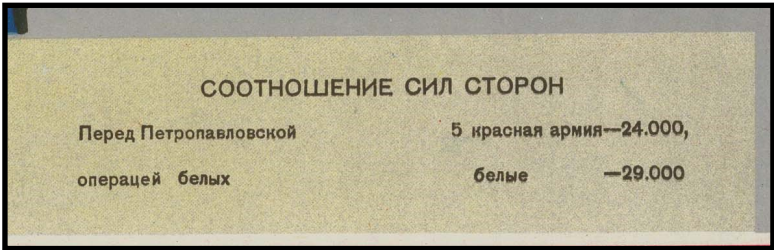
Lithographic print titled “The march of the Japanese army at Vladivostok city” — *Japanese troops were the first Allied forces to enter Russia; they were also the last to leave. Japan also maintained the largest number of troops (approximately 70,000) in an effort to expand their hegemony on the Asian mainland. This color lithographic print is one in a set of seventeen entitled “Kyūro tōdoku enseigun gahō = The illustration of the Siberian War,” which depicts Japanese expeditionary forces in Siberia in various campaigns during their occupation, 1918-22.*

an, British, French, and Chinese, had departed earlier in 1919, whereas the last Japanese units withdrew in the fall of 1922. They were followed by thousands of refugees who fled to Manchuria, China, Korea, and elsewhere.

Communist rule in the Caucasus was complete by the end of 1921, as indicated by the red symbol of an explosion over Dagestan, three red flags that fly above Yerevan, Tiflis, and Baku, in addition to the text and date “Proclamation of Soviet rule 17 April 1920.” When the area was reinforced by the Eleventh Red Army, Lenin and Stalin, his Commissar of Nationalities, established Soviet Socialist Republics in Azerbaijan in April 1920, in Georgia in February 1921, and in Armenia in December 1921.

Former Tsarist Turkestan, essentially most of Central Asia, is represented as a giant fireball erupting out of Tashkent. Red spearheads advance throughout as though they were spreading flames. Various centers of authority had arisen in Central Asia following the revolution, but the Red Army managed to turn the region into a series of soviet republics by the end of 1920. Spread across the region is the name Mikhail Frunze, commander of the Turkestani Red Army, who defeated fierce guerilla opposition to set up a Turkestan Autonomous Soviet Socialist Republic in September 1920.

Transcription of Text

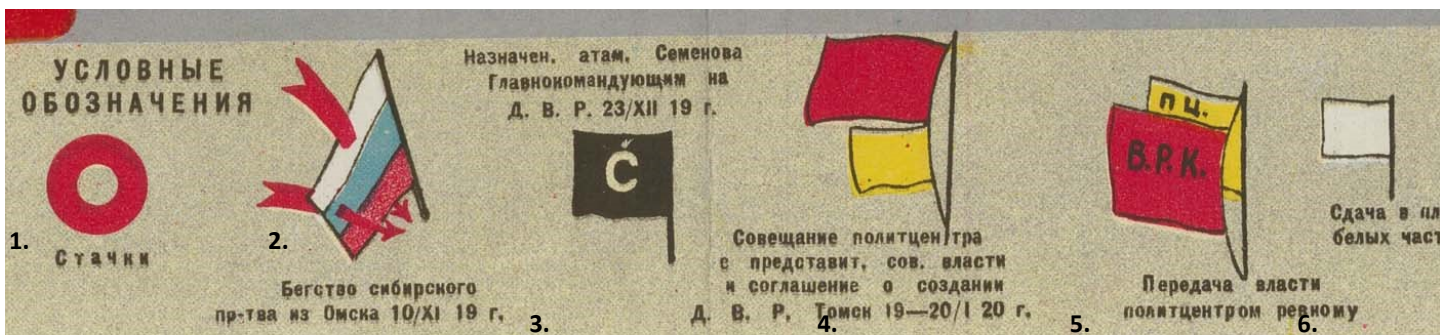


Correlation of Party Forces

| | |
|----------------------|----------------------|
| Before Petropavlovsk | 5 Red Army – 24,000, |
| White operations | Whites – 29,000 |

Conventional Symbols

1. *Strike*
2. *Flight of the Siberian government from Omsk on 10 November 1919.*
3. *Appointment of Ataman Semenov as commander of D. V. R. (Far Eastern Republic) 23 December 1919.*
4. *Political Center meeting with Soviet authorities and the agreement on the creation of a D. V. R. at Tomsk 19-20/January 1920.*
5. *Political Center's resentful transfer of power.*
6. *Surrender of White forces.*



7. *Government.*
8. *Treasonous Japanese behavior and brutal massacre of communists 4-5 May 1920.*
9. *31 January 1920 zemski sobor and its troops.*
10. *Merkulov 26 July 1921.*
11. *Coalition government: Communists, Mensheviks, Social Revolutionaries, Kadets 4 July 1921.*
12. *Diterikhs from 23 August to 25 October 1922.*

